GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2452
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
FRESH WATER RESOURCES
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per recent survey by an international body, only three percent of available water resources in the world, is fresh water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of fresh water available in each State/UT at present in the country;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any sustainable water utilization policy for optimum use of fresh water resources in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the further steps proposed to be taken by the Government for judicious use of fresh water resources in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b): The reports brought out by several organisations including the report titled "The United Nations World Water Development Report 3" brought out by the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation in the year 2009, mention that the freshwater is a small fraction - about 2.5% - of the total water on Earth. The total volume of water on Earth is about 1.4 billion km3. The volume of freshwater resources is around 35 million km3 or about 2.5% of the total volume. Of these freshwater resources, about 68.7% is in the form of ice and permanent snow cover. Around 30.1% of the world's freshwater is stored underground in the form of groundwater and about 0.8% as permafrost. Surface and atmospheric water constitute about 0.4% out of which freshwater lakes and rivers contain an estimated 105000 km3 or around 0.3% of the world's freshwater.

(c): The details of river basin-wise availability of water resources is given at Annex-I. Statewise details of the assessed replenishable ground water are at Annex-II.

(d) to (f): The National Water Policy 2002 addresses the various issues related to sustainable development & efficient management of water resources. Salient features of National Water Policy are at Annex-III. In view of emerging challenges in water sector, Government has initiated the process of review of the National Water Policy.